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Bates
6/13/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

O'BRIEN

Atty Ref.

540-320

Serial No. 10/052,107

Group:

Filed: January 17, 2002

Examiner:

For: IMPROVEMENTS IN ATM DATA
TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS

May 21, 2002

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓ Please cancel without prejudice claims 7 and 9 and amend claim 8 as follows. Please substitute the following amended claim for corresponding claim previously presented. A copy of the amended claim showing current revisions is attached.

AI 8. (Amended) An apparatus adapted for hardening ATM cells in accordance with the method of claim 1.